

Drought Task Force Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2013
1:30-4 pm CDT
State Emergency Operations Center Amphitheatre

In attendance:

Terry Woster, SDDPS
Jason Bauder, SDDPS-OEM
Doug Hinkle, SDDPS-FMO
Paul Merriman, SDDPS-FMO
Jamie Crew, SDDA
Megan Mercer, SDDPS-OEM
Steve Hasenohrl, SDDA-WFS

Lynn Beck, SDDENR
Mark Rath, SDDENR
Dennis Todey, State
Climatologist
Jon Farris, SDDA
Tina Titze, SDDPS-OEM
Todd Heitkamp, NWS

Darren Clabo, State Fire
Meteorologist
Aaron Jordan, SDNG
Mike Traxinger, SD Farmers
Union
Emmitt Keyser, GFP

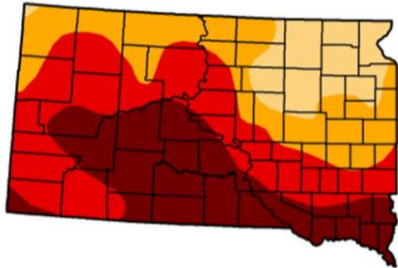
Drought Conditions Update:

State Climatologist Dennis Todey reported the last 30 days have shown decent amounts of precipitation in both the south central, east central and northeastern portions of the state along with the central and northern portions of the Black Hills. The far northeastern corner has the deepest snow with a 4 to 5 inch snow water equivalent. The south central and northeast portions have received above average precipitation. Temperatures were below average in the east due to snow pack with the western side slightly above average.

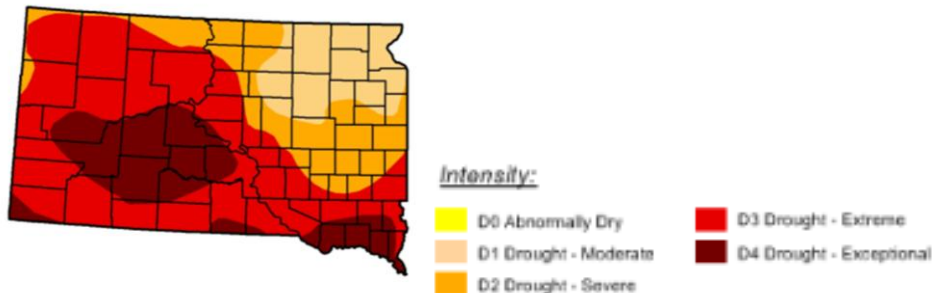
The majority of the state is seeing soil temperatures between the ranges of 29 to 34 degrees with the far east still frozen with temperatures between 26 to 28 degrees.

South Dakota received some improvement on the US Drought Monitor map:

February 19, 2013



March 19, 2013



The April outlook is indicating equal chances of above or below average precipitation totals with increased chances of above average temperatures. The 90 day outlook is showing most of the state seeing above average temperatures and equal chances of above or below average precipitation.

Drought Mitigation Plan RFP:

The two proposals received were from Project Solutions (\$66,000) based out of Rapid City and AMEC (\$110,000) located in Boulder, Colorado.

It was felt that Project Solutions did not capture the wants of the Drought Task Force. AMEC, on the other hand, had a clear outline and plan on how to achieve goals and seemed to have a better understanding of the wants of the Drought Task Force.

Jason Bauder stated that previous work experience has been excellent with AMEC and was pleased with their efficiency.

Agency drought updates:

WFS: Steve Hasenohrl reports that they are visiting Yankton County to deal with questions and concerns about possible red zone designation areas for this spring and summer.

He goes on to report that fire danger is temporarily moderate. Nothing significant to report on at this time and WFS continues to monitor fire dangers and gear up for an active fire season based on what the weather has predicted and fuels.

SDDA: No report at this time.

SDDPS: Terry Woster reported that Stephanie Rissler of SD PBS contacted him in regards to interest in doing another SD Focus on drought. It was decided by the group the best time for another installment would be late May.

DENR: Lynne Beck reported that the snowpack melting of the James and Big Sioux River Valleys may help the surface water. Those two rivers will be closely monitored in regard to possible shut off orders as well as the western half of the state.

Many ag producers are turning acres into irrigated acres.

Drinking water is not a concern as of now.

GFP: Emmitt Keyser reported this winter in the northeast corner of the state has caused problems for deer.

In the past year, pheasant numbers were down and the lack of water and bugs are the suspected cause and could pose a challenge for this coming year.

Northeastern ponds and lake levels should rise with spring melting and be good for fishing.

SDNG: 200 personnel receiving aviation and ground support training for wildland fire suppression.

FM: Paul Merriman reported that they continue to work and support WFS and SDOEM.

They have sent out SOPs on wildland fire management and protocols to their fire department contacts and currently are working on identifying resources for structure protection.

SDOEM: Jason Bauder reported that SDOEM will continue to work towards an approved RFP from the Drought Task Force and then with the Governor's Office.

Next meeting April 8, 2013 at 1:30-4pm.